Foster Youth Educational Outcomes

Summary of Research From the Washington State Institute for Public Policy

Braam Oversight Panel
SeaTac, Washington
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Background

✓ **November 2001 – Educational Attainment of Foster Youth: Achievement and Graduation Outcomes**

✓ **February 2006 – Braam Panel Implementation Plan directs DSHS to replicate study**

✓ **March 2008 – Educational Attainment of Foster Children: 2006 Results**

✓ **March 2009 – Children's Administration and OSPI data share agreement**

✓ **November 2009 – Graduation and Dropout Outcomes for Children in State Care**

✓ **April 2010 – How Are the Experiences of Foster Youth in Washington State Related to WASL Assessments? 2008 Results**

✓ **April 2010 – Education Advocacy for Foster Youth in Washington State**

Current Research Topics

1. **Graduation and dropout outcomes**

2. **Foster care and assessment scores**

3. **Educational interventions and data**

Three Types of Foster Youth (2005–2008)

	Foster Care: 90 Days During School Year	Foster Care: 180 Days During School Year	Foster Care: 360 Days During School Year	All Students
All Students	0.1%	0.1%	0.4%	
Total	**708**	**1,651**	**5,641**	**1,273,158**
Race/Ethnicity				
Caucasian (not of Hispanic Origin)	62%	60%	56%	72%
Racial/Ethnic Minority	**37%**	**39%**	**43%**	**28%**

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Grade Point Average (GPA)				
0.0–1.0	21%	16%	13%	7%
1.1–2.0	28%	26%	27%	17%
2.1–3.0	31%	36%	37%	32%
3.1–4.0	**11%**	**14%**	**16%**	**38%**
Missing	9%	9%	8%	5%

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All Students	0.1%	0.1%	0.4%	
Total	**708**	**1,651**	**5,641**	**1,273,158**
School Status				
Behind Grade Level	**13%**	**14%**	**9%**	**5%**

Three Types of Foster Youth (2005–2008)

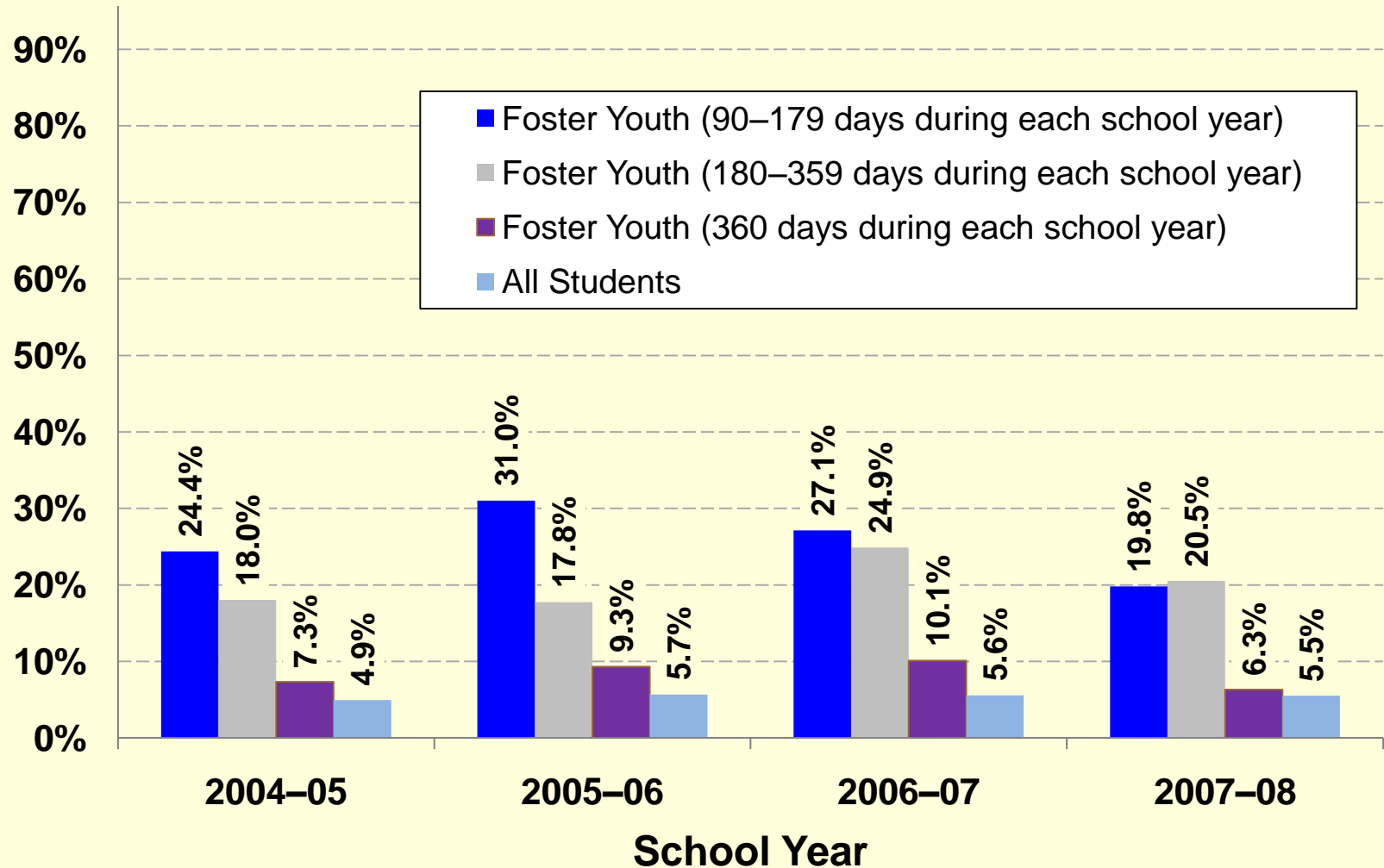|	Foster Care: 90 Days During School Year	Foster Care: 180 Days During School Year	Foster Care: 360 Days During School Year	All Students
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Total	**708**	**1,651**	**5,641**	**1,273,158**
Disability Status				
Reported Disability	**29%**	**33%**	**39%**	**10%**

Three Types of Foster Youth (2005–2008)

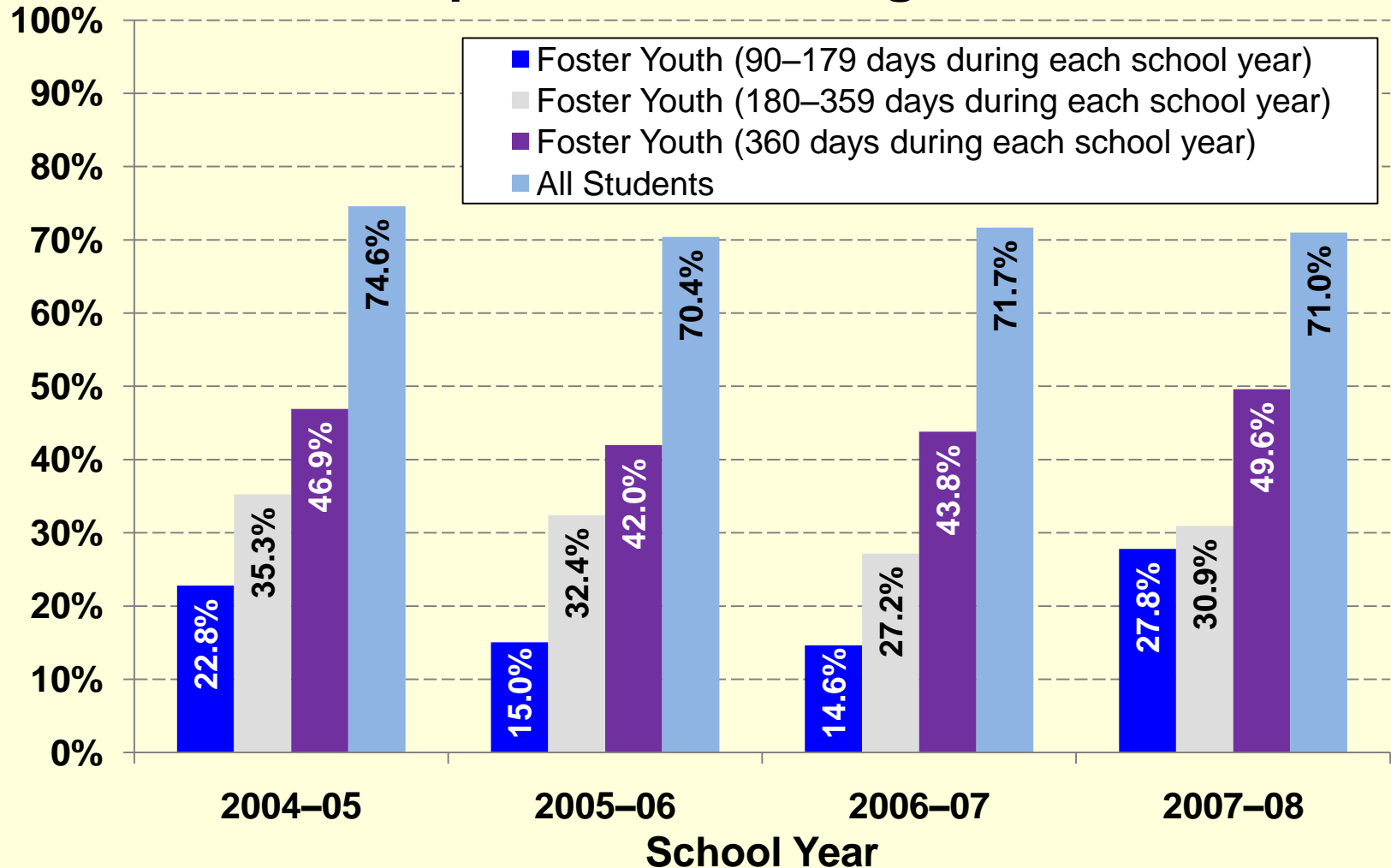|	Foster Care: 90 Days During School Year	Foster Care: 180 Days During School Year	Foster Care: 360 Days During School Year	All Students
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Total	**708**	**1,651**	**5,641**	**1,273,158**
Number of Schools Enrolled in During School Year (Mobility)				
One	**51%**	**52%**	**63%**	**88%**
Two	31%	28%	24%	11%
Three or More	18%	19%	12%	2%

Annual Dropout Rate for Washington State Foster Youth Compared With All High School Students

School Year

Legend:
- Foster Youth (90–179 days during each school year)
- Foster Youth (180–359 days during each school year)
- Foster Youth (360 days during each school year)
- All Students

School Year	Foster Youth (90–179 days)	Foster Youth (180–359 days)	Foster Youth (360 days)	All Students
2004–05	24.4%	18.0%	7.3%	4.9%
2005–06	31.0%	17.8%	9.3%	5.7%
2006–07	27.1%	24.9%	10.1%	5.6%
2007–08	19.8%	20.5%	6.3%	5.5%

On-Time Graduation Rates for Washington State Foster Youth Compared With All High School Students

Legend:
- ■ Foster Youth (90–179 days during each school year)
- ■ Foster Youth (180–359 days during each school year)
- ■ Foster Youth (360 days during each school year)
- ■ All Students

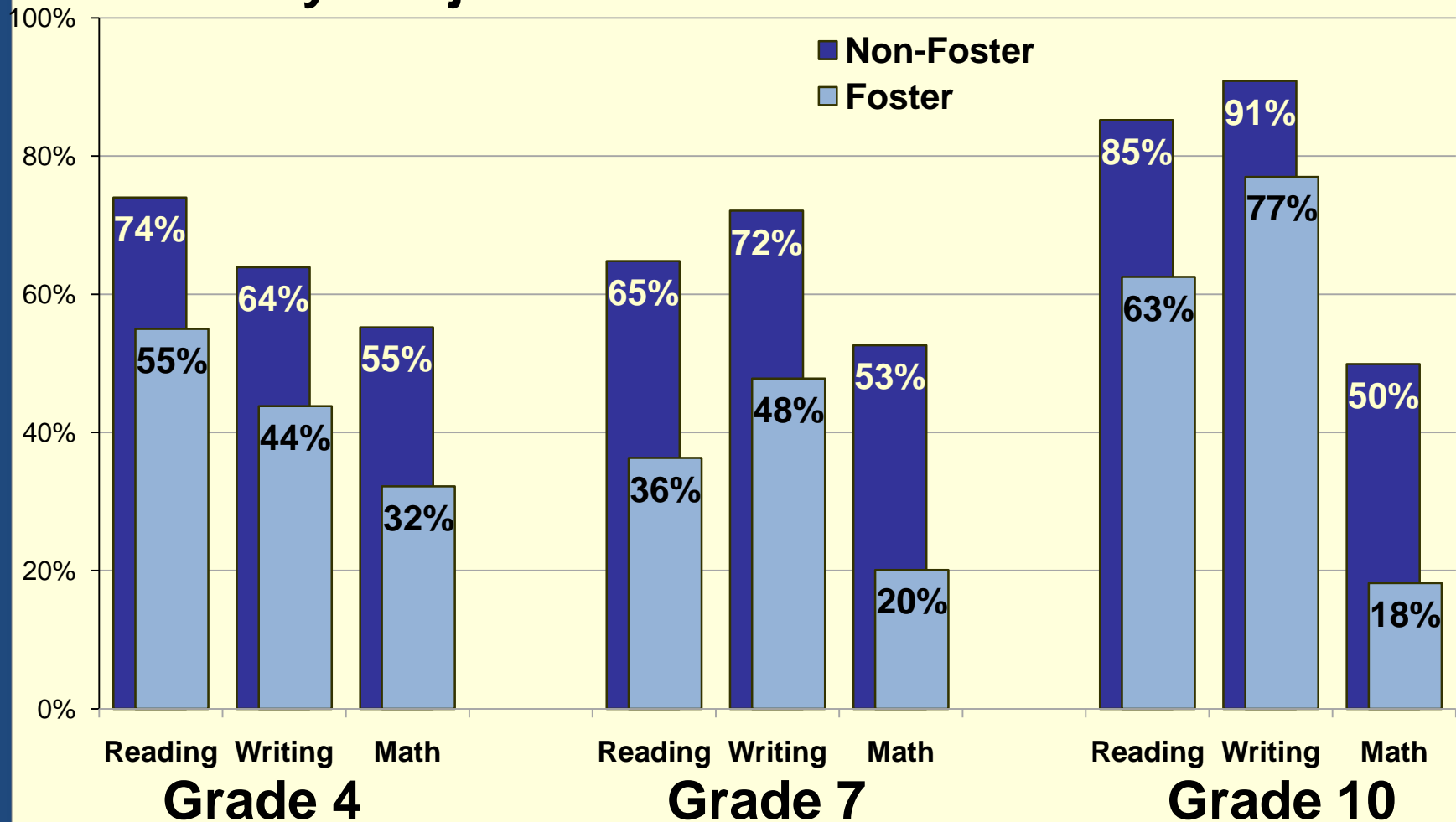| School Year	Foster Youth (90–179 days)	Foster Youth (180–359 days)	Foster Youth (360 days)	All Students
2004–05	22.8%	35.3%	46.9%	74.6%
2005–06	15.0%	32.4%	42.0%	70.4%
2006–07	14.6%	27.2%	43.8%	71.7%
2007–08	27.8%	30.9%	49.6%	71.0%

School Year
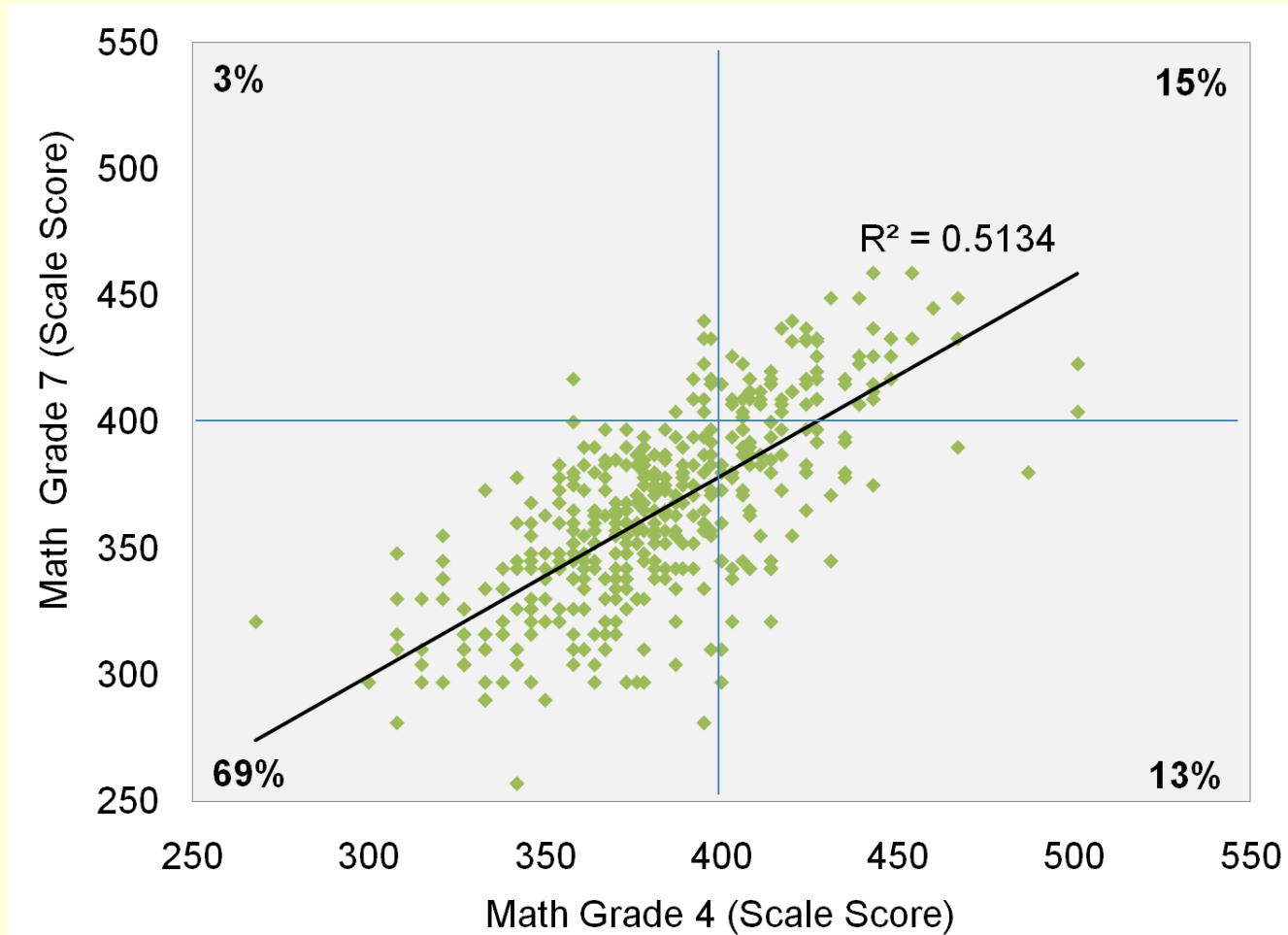
Longitudinal Graduation Rate
(2004–05 Ninth Graders)
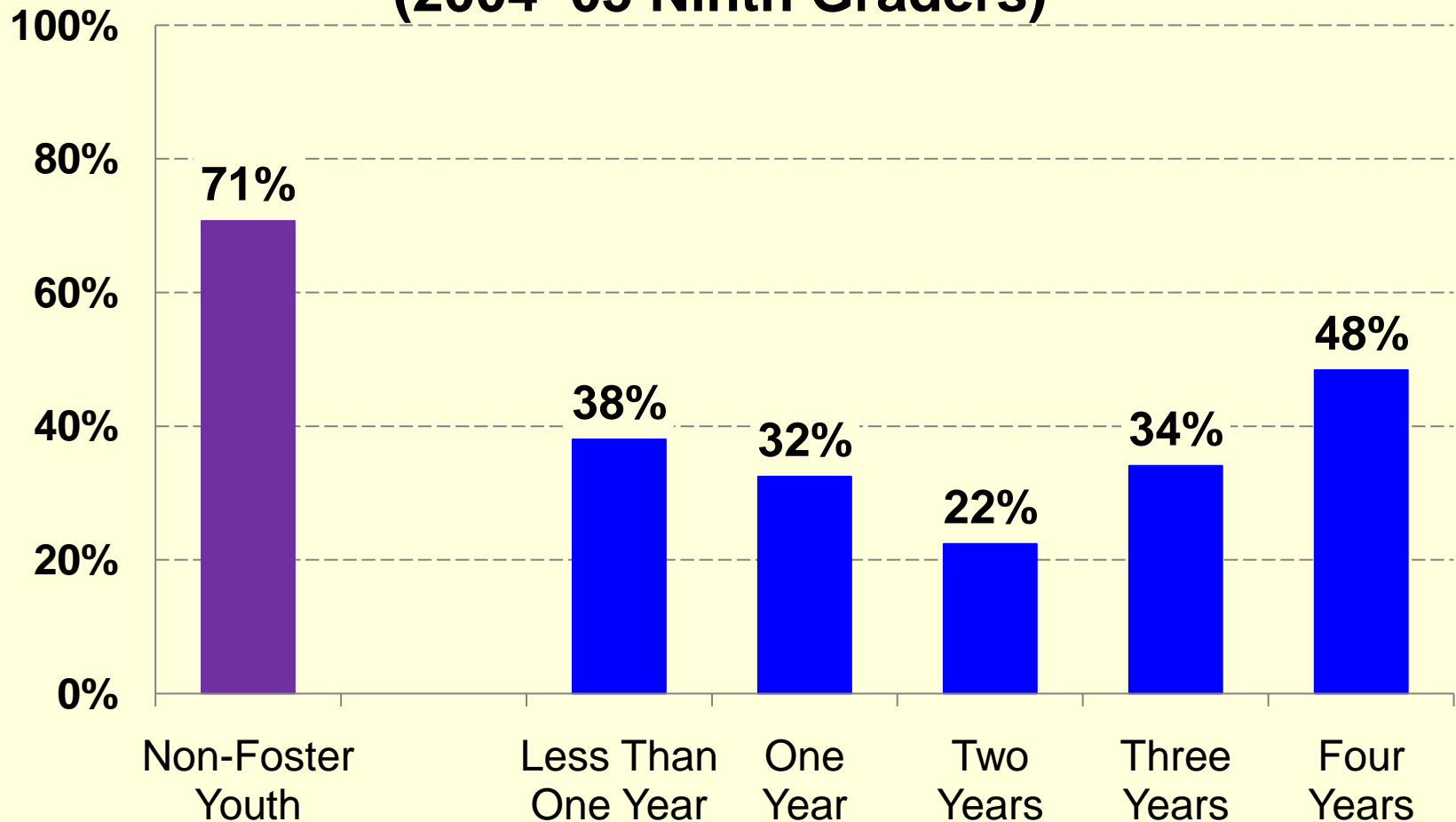
Total Full Years in Foster Care During High School

Percentage of Students Meeting Standard
by Subject Area on the 2007-08 WASL

Legend:
- ■ Non-Foster
- ■ Foster

Grade 4
- Reading: Non-Foster 74%, Foster 55%
- Writing: Non-Foster 64%, Foster 44%
- Math: Non-Foster 55%, Foster 32%

Grade 7
- Reading: Non-Foster 65%, Foster 36%
- Writing: Non-Foster 72%, Foster 48%
- Math: Non-Foster 53%, Foster 20%

Grade 10
- Reading: Non-Foster 85%, Foster 63%
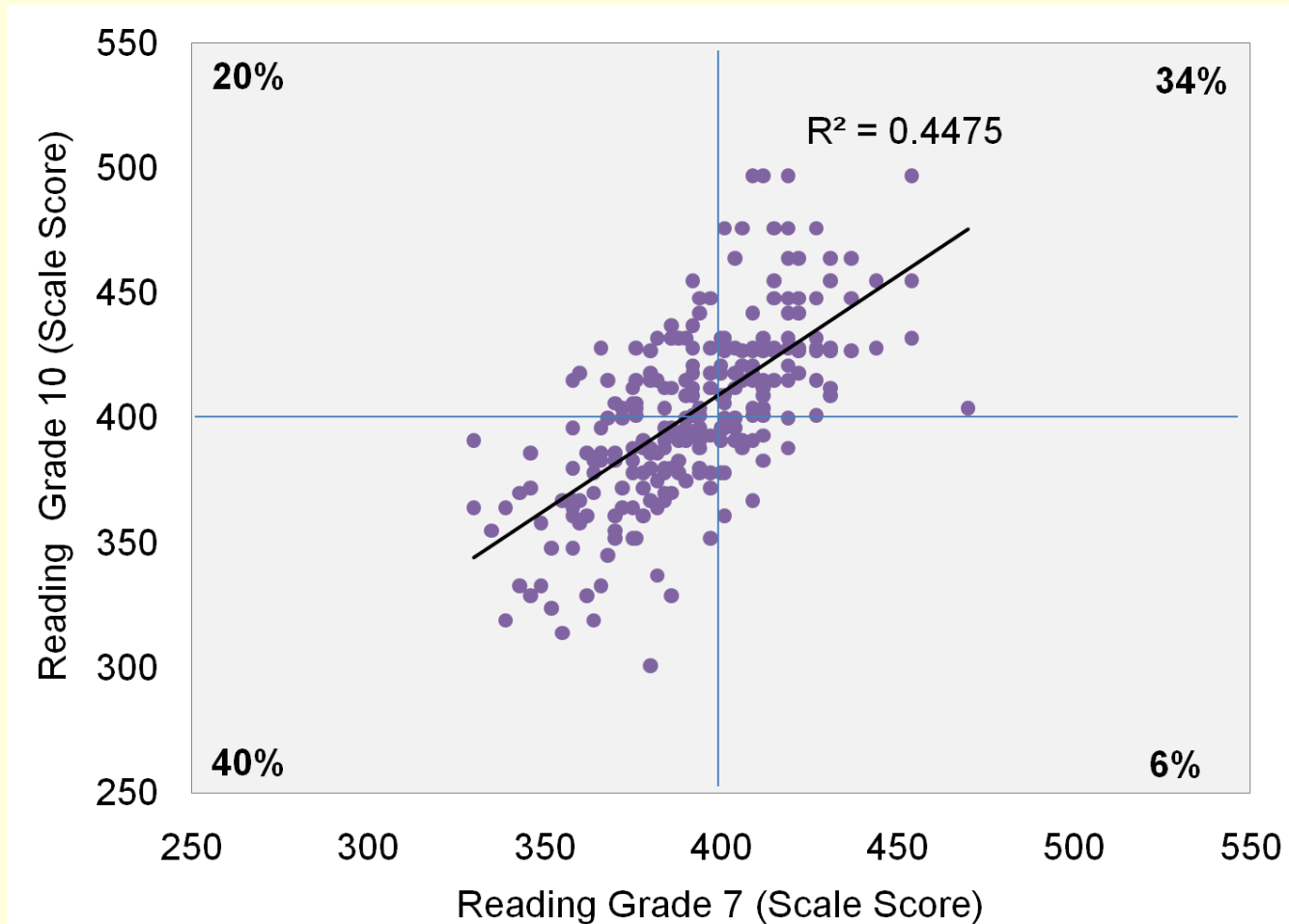- Writing: Non-Foster 91%, Foster 77%
- Math: Non-Foster 50%, Foster 18%

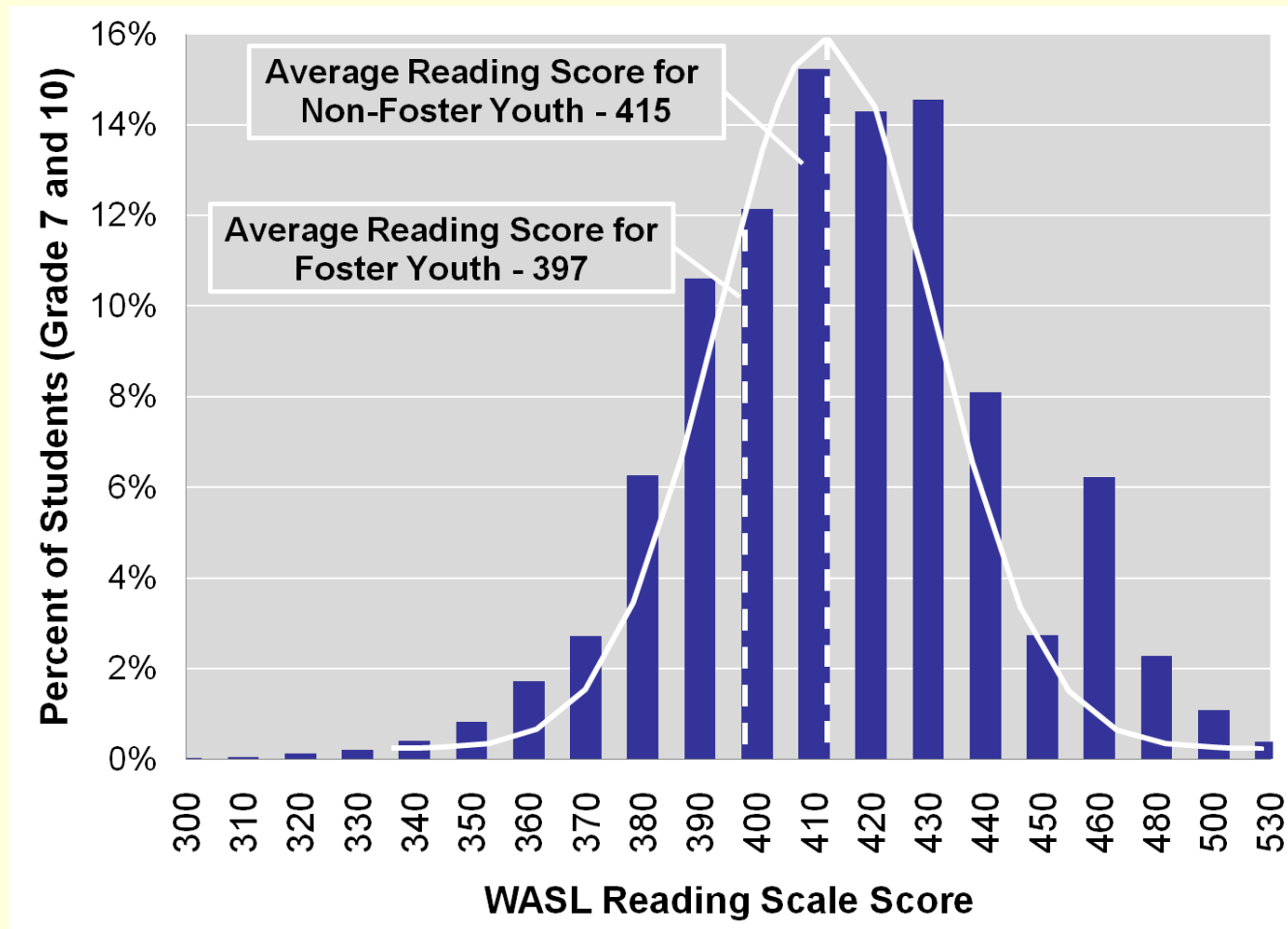# Did Foster Youth Consistently Fail to Meet WASL Standards?

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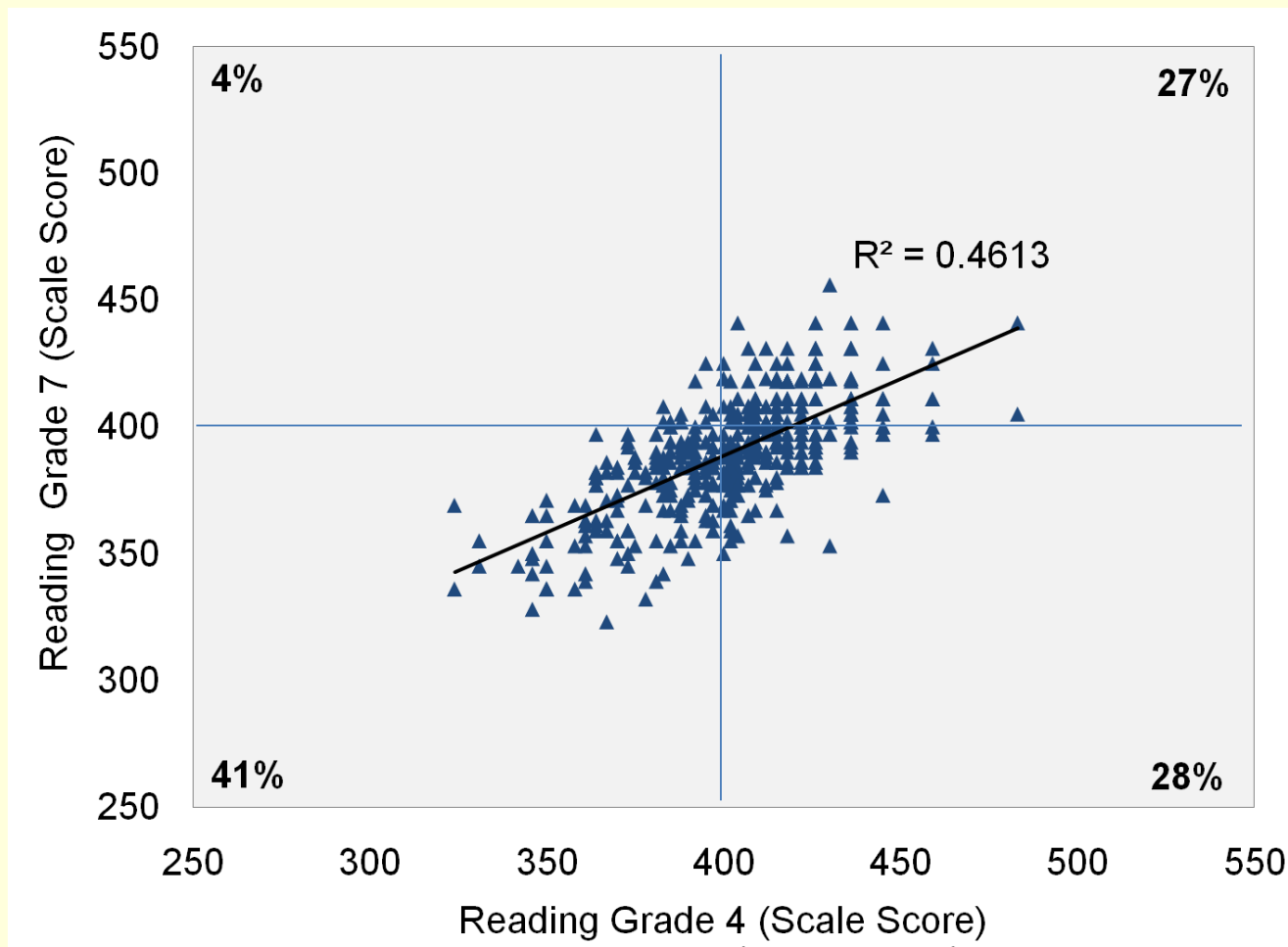
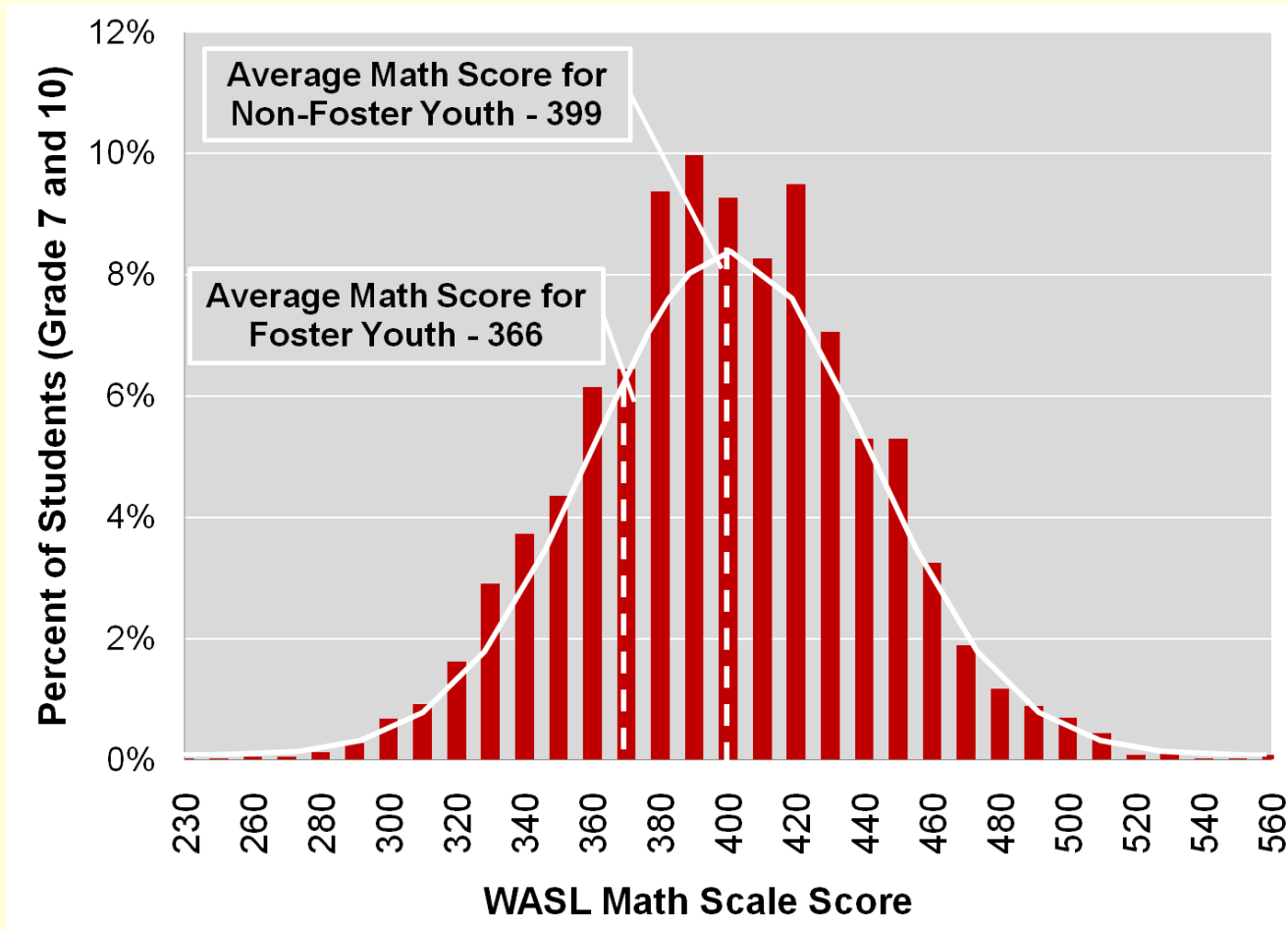# Did Foster Youth Consistently Fail to Meet WASL Standards?
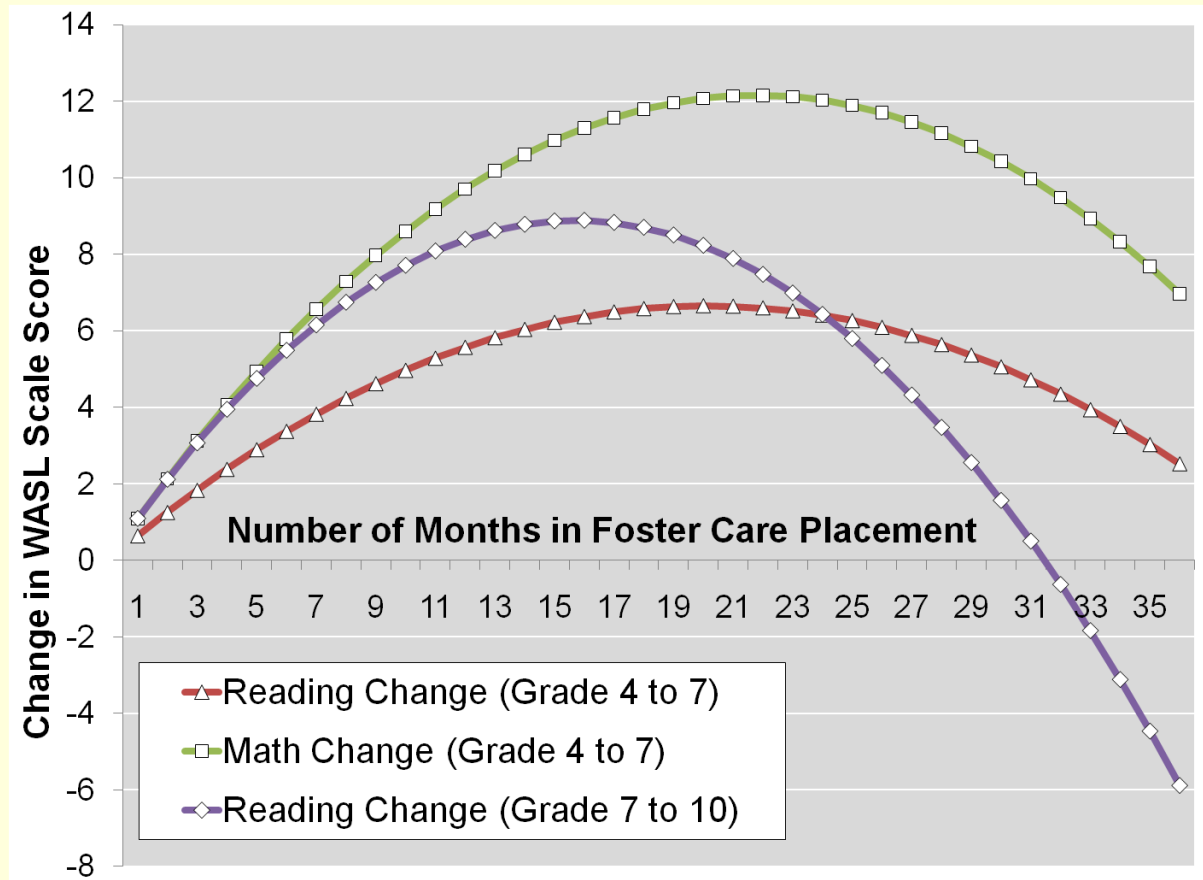
What Will It Take for Foster Youth to 'Catch Up'?

Average Reading Score for Non-Foster Youth - 415

Average Reading Score for Foster Youth - 397

Percent of Students (Grade 7 and 10)

WASL Reading Scale Score

What Will It Take for Foster Youth to 'Catch Up'?

Average Math Score for Non-Foster Youth - 399

Average Math Score for Foster Youth - 366

Percent of Students (Grade 7 and 10)

WASL Math Scale Score

Time in Care Associated With WASL Improvements

Change in WASL Scale Score vs. *Number of Months in Foster Care Placement*

Legend:
- Reading Change (Grade 4 to 7)
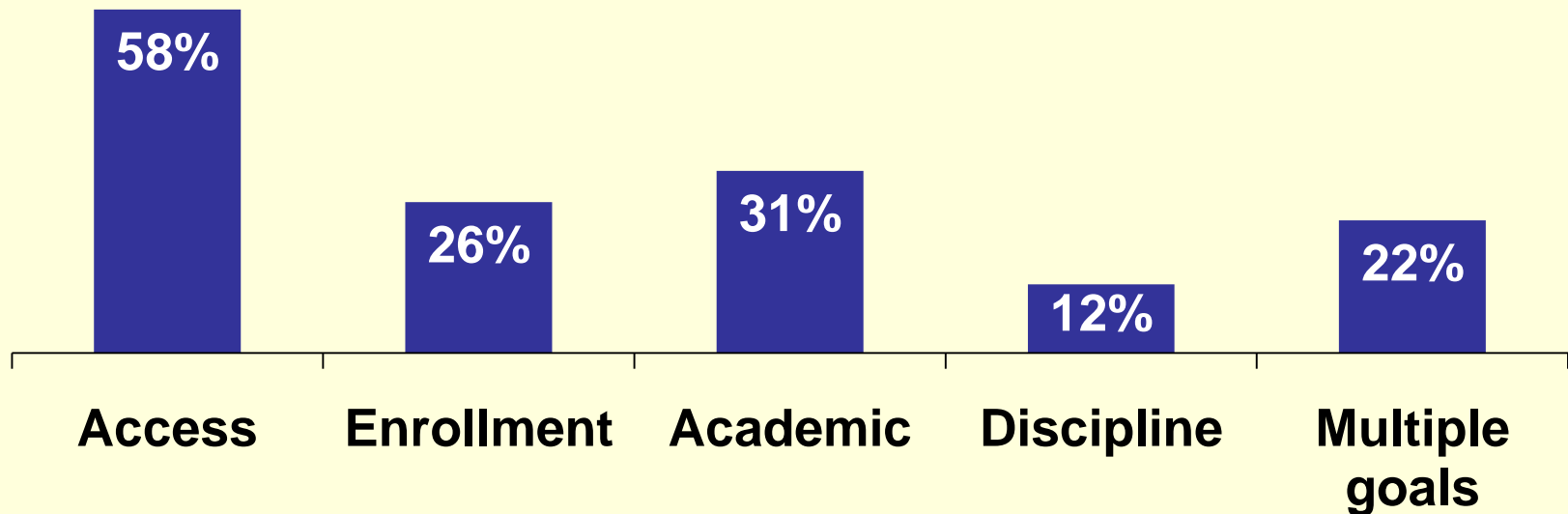- Math Change (Grade 4 to 7)
- Reading Change (Grade 7 to 10)

but, Improvements Modest and Short-Term

Education Advocacy Program

✓ **Information & referral, consultation, direct advocacy in school**

✓ **All foster youth are eligible**

EAP youth address one or more goals:

58%	**26%**	**31%**	**12%**	**22%**
Access	**Enrollment**	**Academic**	**Discipline**	**Multiple goals**

Future Research

- **Link EAP data with K-12 data at the district and/or state level**

- **Evaluate academic outcomes after youth leave the program:**

  - ✓ **Enrollment and attendance (when OSPI fully implements new data collection process)**

  - ✓ **Progress through grade levels**

  - ✓ **Special education status**

  - ✓ **Test scores**

  - ✓ **High school graduation rates**

  - ✓ **Suspensions and expulsions (district level only)**

- **Access to services: EAP is the only current data source**